

CLAIMS

1. A data processing method for running on a data processing host in a data processing system, the data processing system comprising a plurality of data processing hosts, the method comprising the steps of:

10 maintaining a host information repository comprising host information for each of two or more of the plurality of data processing hosts, the host information comprising details relating to host configuration;

15 obtaining program requirements comprising details relating to host configuration required for executing a program;

20 identifying from the host information repository according to the obtained program requirements one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program; and

25 causing execution of the program on one of the one or more data processing hosts identified as capable of executing the program.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

receiving the host information for a data processing host in a message sent from the data processing host.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the host information further comprises details relating to host state.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

the program requirements further comprise details relating to one or more host configurations required for the program to communicate with;

the identifying step further identifying one or more data processing hosts suitable for the program to communicate with; and

the causing step further making the program aware of one or more data processing hosts suitable for it to communicate with.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a program execution policy comprising a subset of program requirements;

identifying from a program repository comprising program requirements for a plurality of programs one or

more programs with program requirements which comprise the program execution policy; and

repeating the obtaining, identifying one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program, and causing steps for each of the one or more programs with program requirements which comprise the program execution policy.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a host execution policy comprising a subset of host information;

15. identifying from the host repository one or more data processing hosts with host information which comprises the host execution policy; and

20. repeating the obtaining, identifying one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program, and causing steps for a plurality of programs;

25. wherein the identifying one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program step considers only the one or more data processing hosts with host information which comprises the host execution policy.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein program requirements further comprise one or more other programs and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

5       repeating the obtaining, identifying one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program, and causing steps for each of the other programs identified in the program requirements.

10      8. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the program is for testing a product installed one or more of the plurality of data processing hosts.

15      9. A computer program product recorded on a computer readable medium, said program product comprising instructions which, when executed on a data processing host in a data processing system comprising a plurality of data processing hosts, cause said host to carry out a method comprising the steps of:

20        maintaining a host information repository comprising host information for each of two or more of the plurality of data processing hosts, the host information comprising details relating to host configuration;

25        obtaining program requirements comprising details relating to host configuration required for executing a program;

identifying from the host information repository according to the obtained program requirements one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program; and

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causing execution of the program on one of the one or more data processing hosts identified as capable of executing the program.

10. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

receiving the host information for a data processing host in a message sent from the data processing host.

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11. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9 wherein the host information maintained in the host information repository further comprises details relating to host state.

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12. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9 wherein:

25 the program requirements further comprise details relating to one or more host configurations required for the program to communicate with;

30 the identifying step further identifying one or more data processing hosts suitable for the program to communicate with; and

the causing step further making the program aware of one or more data processing hosts suitable for it to communicate with.

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13. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

10 receiving a program execution policy comprising a subset of program requirements;

15 identifying from a program repository comprising program requirements for a plurality of programs one or more programs with program requirements which comprise the program execution policy; and

20 repeating the obtaining, identifying one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program, and causing steps for each of the one or more programs with program requirements which comprise the program execution policy.

25 14. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving a host execution policy comprising a subset of host information;

identifying from the host repository one or more data processing hosts with host information which comprises the host execution policy; and

5 repeating the obtaining, identifying one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program, and causing steps for a plurality of programs;

10 wherein the identifying one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program step considers only the one or more data processing hosts with host information which comprises the host execution policy.

15. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9 wherein program requirements further comprise one or more other programs and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

20 repeating the obtaining, identifying one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program, and causing steps for each of the other programs identified in the program requirements.

25 16. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9 wherein the program is for testing a product installed one or more of the plurality of data processing hosts.

30 17. A data processing system comprising a plurality of data processing hosts wherein at least one data processing host comprises:

5            maintaining means for maintaining a host information repository comprising host information for each of two or more of the plurality of data processing hosts, the host information comprising details relating to host configuration;

10            obtaining means for obtaining program requirements comprising details relating to host configuration required for executing a program;

15            host identifying means for identifying from the host information repository according to the obtained program requirements one or more data processing hosts capable of executing the program; and

20            execution means for causing execution of the program on one of the one or more data processing hosts identified as capable of executing the program.

25            18. A system as claimed in claim 17 further comprising:

means for receiving host information for a data processing hosts in a message sent from the data processing host.

30            19. A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein host information further comprises details relating to host state.

20. A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein:

program requirements further comprise details relating to one or more host configurations required for the program to communicate with;

the host identifying means is further operable to identify one or more data processing hosts suitable for the program to communicate with; and

10 the execution means is further operable to make the program aware of one or more data processing hosts suitable for it to communicate with.

15 21. A system as claimed in claim 17 further comprising:

means for receiving a program execution policy comprising a subset of program requirements; and

20 means for identifying from a program repository comprising program requirements for a plurality of programs one or more programs with program requirements which comprise the program execution policy;

25 wherein the obtaining means, host identifying means, and execution means are operable for each of the plurality of programs which comprise the program execution policy.

30 22. A system as claimed in claim 17 further comprising:

means for receiving a host execution policy comprising a subset of host information; and

5 means for identifying from the host repository one or more data processing hosts with host information which comprises the host execution policy;

10 wherein the obtaining means, host identifying means, and execution means are operable for a plurality of programs; and

15 wherein the host identifying means is operable to consider only the one or more data processing hosts with host information which comprises the host execution policy.

20 23. A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein program requirements further comprise one or more other programs and wherein obtaining means, host identifying means, and execution means are operable for each of the other programs identified in the program requirements.

25 24. A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the program is for testing a product installed one or more of the plurality of data processing hosts.